

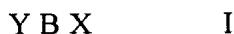
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

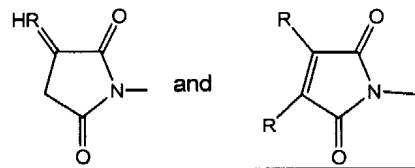
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of an animal, comprising administering a therapeutic or diagnostic composition comprising particles ~~of a~~ comprising a core which is a water-insoluble water-absorbing non-biodegradable polymer matrix into which is absorbed aqueous liquid, the particles having diameters in the range 40 to 4000 μm and a water-content of at least 30%, characterized in that surfaces of the particles express a-zwitterionic groupgroups, to an animal to form an embolus for therapy or diagnosis, wherein the diameters of the particles, when fully imbibed with water, are in the range 150 μm to 3000 μm ,
wherein the zwitterionic groups are pendant groups on a polymer formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers including a monomer of the general formula I



in which Y is an ethylenically unsaturated group selected from the group consisting of $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{CO}-\text{A}-$, $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{A}^1-$, $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{CH}_2-\text{A}^2$, $\text{R}^2\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{CR}=\text{CR}-\text{CO}-\text{O}$, $\text{RCH}=\text{CH}-\text{CO}-\text{O}$, $\text{RCH}=\text{C}(\text{COOR}^2)\text{CH}_2-\text{CO}-\text{O}$,



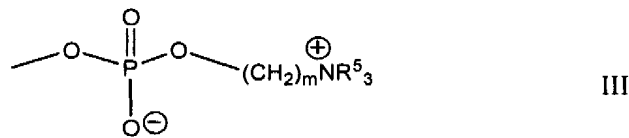
A is -O- or NR^1 ;

A² is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -O-, O-CO-, CO-O, CO-NR¹-, CO, O-CO-NR¹-, NR¹-CO-O-;

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄-alkyl or BX.

R² is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

X is the zwitterionic group having general formula III



52. (Cancelled).

53. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~52~~51 in which the composition is administered for uterine fibroid embolization, embolization of vessels around tumours or tumour-excision sites, embolization of varicose veins or varicoceles, embolization of arteriovenous malformations or venous malformations, hemostasis of gastro-intestinal bleeds, embolization of fistulas or embolization of fallopian tubes, or seminiferous tubes for sterilization purposes.

54-70. (Cancelled).

71. (Previously Presented) The method of treatment of an animal according to claim 51, wherein the composition is sterile.

72-74. (Cancelled).

75. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment of an animal according to claim ~~74~~ 51 in which Y is $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{CO}-\text{A}$.

76. (Cancelled).

77. (Previously Presented) The method of treatment of an animal according to claim 51, wherein the particles are substantially spherical.

78. (Cancelled).